

PLEA FOR THE INDUSTRIOUS POOR AND STRANGERS, IN SICKNESS.

AN

A D D R E S S

DELIVERED AT

THE OPENING OF AN EDIFICE

Erected by the Trustees

OF

THE NEW-YORK DISPENSARY;

JANUARY 11, 1830.

EXHIBITING A VIEW OF THE OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION,
ITS PLAN, RESOURCES, HISTORY AND PECULIAR CLAIMS TO
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BENEFACTIONS.

BY JOHN FREDERICK SCHROEDER, A.M.

AN ASSISTANT MINISTER OF TRINITY CHURCH, IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK;
A LIFE MEMBER OF THE DISPENSARY.

—Διὸς, ὃς ξείνοις ἵκεργοι τε χεῖρ' ἵπερλοχει·
God is the protector of strangers and suppliants.
APOLLONII ARGON. lib. III. l. 936.

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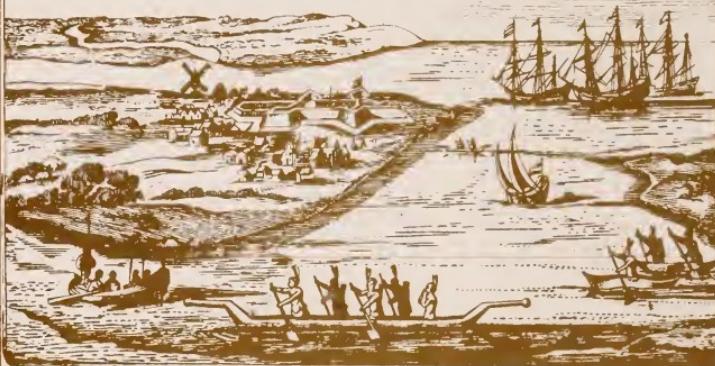
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Extract from the Minutes of an Extra Meeting of the "TRUSTEES OF THE NEW-YORK DISPENSARY," held January 11th, 1830.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Trustees be presented to the Rev. Mr. SCHROEDER, for his very appropriate and eloquent Address, delivered at the Dispensary to-day; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of it for publication.

Resolved, That in consideration of his eminent services in behalf of the New-York Dispensary, on the occasion of the opening of the new edifice, he be, and is hereby elected a MEMBER FOR LIFE.

Resolved, That the Committee of Arrangements wait upon the Rev. Mr. Schroeder, and present to him a copy of these Resolutions, passed by the Trustees.

By order of the Board,

JAMES F. DE PEYSTER, *Secretary.*

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A D D R E S S.

IT has been fabled of *the healing god*, whose shrine was once the glory of the Epidaurians, that his nativity was hailed by an assembled concourse. And were the genius of this Institution now discovered to our eyes ; were we informed, by a divine oracle, of all that blessedness, which, by its sanative virtues, shall be bestowed on myriads unborn : there is not one of our number who would refuse a tribute of respect, and at the same time a free-will offering.

The intelligence, the accomplishments, the learning, and the wealth and piety assembled here, are harbingers of good things to come. In the name of the Institution, which you have thus distinguished, I would now bid you WELCOME. The smiles of your approbation are, we trust, the morning beams of a bright day.

Like the Athenians, who observed an annual festival in honor of the healing arts, this day we celebrate our Epidauria.

And as we now appear before you, we would exhibit to your view—

First, the OBJECTS, which we particularly contemplate ; and,

In the second place, the MEANS, which we propose for their attainment.

I. Our sympathies are awakened by that part of our great community, than which none could be selected more deserving.

Our poor may be regarded, as constituting **THREE CLASSES.**

1. There are not a few, who are reduced to poverty by vice, and above all by gross intemperance. The sad details of an investigation, under the eye of our State Government, represent the aggregate of these sad objects to be lamentably great. Of all the indigent, they have certainly the least claim to our beneficence. But while they loiter through our streets, with their feigned stories of distress,—by well meant, but ill-judged charity, they are not unfrequently encouraged ; and presuming upon the kind feelings and generosity of the humane, they procure from them the very means of gratifying their propensity. WE would not become the almoners of such.

2. There is a **SECOND class**, who are reduced to suffering by God's afflictive hand. They are aged, helpless and infirm. And being destitute of the ability, by which a livelihood might be obtained, they have been literally thrown upon the mercy of the public. For such, thanks to the kind emotions which suggested it ! and thanks to our all-gracious God, for that Christian charity, which first inspired these emotions ! there is an adequate provision made, in our Hospitals and Alms-house.* The Dispensary is ever willing to extend its aid to such as these ; but they are not to be regarded as the objects of its chief solicitude.

3. Its particular attention is arrested by a **THIRD class**, for

* The present number of inmates in our City Hospital is 281. In the Bellevue Hospital there are 271. And there are 1839 in our Alms-house. See the last *Annual Census of the Humane Institutions of the City of New-York*, by the attending Minister, JOHN STANFORD, D. D., Jan. 1, 1830.

whom no suitable provision has been furnished. Yet they are a worthy, and most interesting part of our population. It is only under certain circumstances of distress, that they require assistance.

They are engaged in the prosecution of some reputable business ; and they thus obtain from the community rewards of labor, by which they can procure the necessaries, if not the comforts and conveniences of life. They are industrious ; they are diligent ; they are successful. And while their families are smiling in the glow of health, they envy not the pampered sons of pride and luxury. To all the laboring poor, in the expressive language of *the son of Sirach*,* “There is no riches above a sound body ;” and to them, “Health” is “above all gold.” It is their joy, when, with a vigorous frame, they can “go forth unto their work, and to their labor until the evening.”

But when they are fevered by disease ; when their usual daily earnings are no more supplied to them ; unless prompt, suitable assistance be afforded, their accustomed business is at a stand, the happy smiles of the domestic circle are exchanged for tears, and the alluring scenery of social happiness is covered with the deep shades of penury and sorrow. Here is a husband and a father, on the bed of suffering : and shall *he* yield to the suggestion, that the Hospital must be his home, and that his family must be abandoned to a precarious subsistence ? Here is a wife and mother : and shall *she* be induced to leave the centre of her anxious cares and dearest hopes ? There is a feeble infant : and shall *it* be removed, in sickness, from its fond parents’ tender assiduities ?

Is there one of us, who could be reconciled to partings

* In the book *ECCLESIASTICUS*, *Chap. xxx. r. 15s.*

such as these ? There is in every heart a throb, that eloquently answers, No ! This husband and this father, and this wife and mother, and this tender infant may be relieved, at their respective habitations.

"And He, who stills the raven's clam'rous nest,
And decks the lily fair in flow'ry pride,
Does, in a way his wisdom sees the best,
For them and for their little ones provide."

There is one thought connected with our subject, that is particularly deserving of attention. A great part of all, who may be termed our laboring poor, are STRANGERS ; who have come to us from foreign lands, to breathe our atmosphere of liberty, and share with us the blessedness of our admirable institutions. They have entered into fields of honest industry ; they have begun to reap from them appropriate rewards ; they are allured by gladdening anticipations of an abundant harvest. But in the midst of their career, they are surprised by sickness. They are in a land of strangers ; they are in utter helplessness ; they are removed from friends. Their tale of wo is sent across the mighty deep ; but long before the friendly tear at *home* can be awakened by their narrative, their bodily and mental sufferings demand our sympathy.

It is the language of a celebrated Heathen poet,*

"All the poor and all strangers are from God."

And while our Holy Faith inculcates the same precept with inspired sanctions, shall we behold that poor sick stranger in his corporeal sufferings, and yet pass by "on the other side?"

* HOMER uses the expression, in two passages of his Odyssey : see Z'. 207., and Ε'. 57. ————— πρὸς γὰρ Διὸς εἰσὶν ἄπαντες
Ξεῖνοι τε, πτωχοὶ τε.

There is in every heart a prompt answer, No ! Let suitable relief, with Christian kindness, be extended.

Both the stranger, and the industrious poor are certainly appropriate objects of commiseration. It is for such, that the Dispensary feels a deep and anxious solicitude.

Pecuniary aid is ever liable to be abused. And did Experience unfold to us a single page of her sad records, we should discover multitudes, who have been thus allured into gross indolence and feigned distress. But the Dispensary has no such offerings to exhibit. It has no pecuniary charities. Yet it goes forth, in the spirit and power of the Apostle,* declaring, “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee.” From house to house, it alleviates men’s bodily infirmities, and “giveth *medicine* to heal their sickness.”

Animated by this spirit, it has long proceeded, with great system and great ardor, in its benignant enterprise. It has divided our whole metropolis into districts, and an attending physician has been assigned to each. *Consulting* physicians have been appointed. And a regular plan of *visitation* has been established, by which the actual condition of the Dispensary may be ascertained. In the performance of their duties, the attending physicians have gone forth. They have entered, with all diligence, their assigned spheres of action ; and the reports, which they have made to the Trustees, develope an attractive series of operations.

Not content with the **RELIEF**, which it has extensively afforded, the Dispensary desires, with a provident beneficence, to anticipate disease.

* St. PETER, in the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, Chap. iii. v. 6.

Among the various ills “that flesh is heir to,” there is one, that may be justly numbered with the greatest enemies of our race. From the remotest period of the world, it has tyrannically scourged the empires of the Oriental continent; and conveyed from China to Hindoo-stan, and thence to the Arabian shores about the middle of the sixth century, having previously traversed with its polluting steps the north coast of Africa, it entered Europe with the desolating armies of the Saracens: fit emblem of its rapid, wide-spread, merciless career! In times past, it has caused the nations of the earth to mourn, over the untimely fate of a tenth* of all their departed. And unsated with its cruel carnage of unnumbered dead, it has deformed the living. Not unfrequently erasing those mysterious lineaments, by means of which the soul’s most secret workings are inscribed upon the countenance, it has set the stamp of its implacable malignity, upon the very features of the “face divine.”

To arrest the progress of this Monster,—long, long† before his foul, Sirrocco breath had breathed on Europe, small-pox inoculation is said to have been practised in one region of the East. But by this art, the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire only mitigated the sad influence of an enemy, whom even their great boasted wall could not shut out. And in Europe, “it may be doubted,” (I adopt the words of a distinguished surgeon,‡) “it may be doubted, whether it has lessened the mortality of the disease;” since

* See SIR GILBERT BLANE’S *Tables*, in the *Eclectic Repertory*, Vol. X. pp. 299, and 311. *Phila.* 1820.

† The great antiquity of small-pox in CHINA, and the early practice of inoculation there, are stated on the authority of the JESUITS, in their *Lettres Edifiantes et Curieuses*, quoted by Dr. GOOD, in his *Study of Medicine*, Vol. III. the chapter on Empyesis Variola, p. 54, and p. 78. of the edition New-York, 1827.

‡ DR. JAMES BRYCE, in his *Practical Observations on the Inoculation of Cow-pox*, Chap. II. Sect. I. p. 63. of the edit. Edinburgh, 1802.

in its mildest form it spreads contagion, to all such as have not, by an effectual preventive, been secured from its malignant venom. When the last century had closed its circuit, the small-pox proved fatal, in the proportion* of one person out of every seven born in Glasgow; two out of every thirteen born in London; and in Liverpool, the discouraging proportion was still greater.

Well might the human family direct, on every side, their earnest looks, for some one to save them from their general wretchedness. A deliverer arose. He took his censer; he went forth; “he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.” It was the privilege of England to give birth to the illustrious man.

In the well known *virus of vaccinia*, he discovered a preventive, which is so harmless, as to be applied with safety to the feeblest infant. Since the original publication† of the discovery in the year 1798, the welcome messenger of mercy has gone forth. Within the Prussian States, where once, year by year, no less than forty thousand of their population were prostrated by Variola, it has supplied “the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness,” and its discovery is commemorated‡ by an annual festival. In Copenhagen, it has reduced§ the ravages of the great enemy, from fifty-five hundred victims during twelve years, to one hundred and fifty-eight during sixteen years. In Berlin, during the year 1819, its protection shielded all the population, except five-

* See BRYCE's *Practical Observations* just quoted, Chap. II. Sect. I. p. 61.

† The memorable work of Dr. JENNER, announcing the discovery, is entitled, “*Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccina.*”

‡ On the 14th day of May, at Berlin.

§ For the facts here stated, see *Museum of For. Lit.*, Vol. X. p. 284. See also DR. JENNER's *Letter to W. Dillwyn, Esq.*; and SIR G. BLANE's *Statement*, accompanying his Tables just quoted.

and-twenty. For eleven years, only five persons died of small-pox in Bavaria; and the principality of Anspach, it is said, has rejoiced in its complete extermination.

Throughout the regions of the earth, with a rapidity, surpassing the afflictive march of the destroyer himself, Vaccination has been hailed with joy; for if it cannot utterly annihilate the venomous contagion, it can, in every region of the earth, allay its virulence.* Not only Europe, but the remotest sons of Asia, and the untutored children even of South Africa, while they partake of the inestimable benefits of his discovery, unite in their eulogium of that illustrious benefactor of the human race, immortal JENNER.

In Great Britain, and our own Free States, where LIBERTY tempts men, not only to reject all evidence, but *do as they please*, we can find multitudes, who are the necessary victims of their own rash presumption. In Denmark, it is required by law, that no youth, until he has exhibited a testimonial of vaccination, may be admitted to a school or college, or apprenticed to a trade. But as our statutes do not compel citizens, to be protected from a direful contagion, that still spreads deformity and death among us, we would freely offer the well-known preventive of its fatal influence, to all, and more especially to strangers and the poor.

You have heard the OBJECTS of our Institution. And are they not consecrated, by the tenderest relations of domestic life, and approved by the best feelings of humanity?

II. To obtain a liberal encouragement for objects so commendable, the Dispensary looked with confidence around, upon the wealth of our great commercial mart. It

* See DR. CRAIGIE's Art. *Vaccination*, in Suppl. to Encyc. Britan. p. 712; and *Eclectic Rep.*, Vol. II. 306. V. 533. ix. 129. x. 297^{ss.}

"saw the rich men casting their gifts into the" Lord's "treasury." On every side, it saw an active, noble emulation, communicated even to the poor widow with her mites. It rejoiced at this pervading influence of good will to man. It came forward. And while it pointed, with a deep concern, to the sick poor and strangers, who are the peculiar objects of its care, it invited contributions ; and in return for these it offered privileges, which, to the philanthropic, it was hoped, would be alluring. But the public mind was occupied with other charities ; the public feelings were vibrating to other notes of wo ; and the public eye, exploring the great field of missions, overlooked the simple, unobtrusive efforts, by which thousands, tens of thousands of our own suffering might be saved at home.

Far, far from us, the sacrilegious thought, of plucking *one leaf* from the full chaplet, that is to crown the head of him, who hath "the heathen for his inheritance." It is the language of our lips, and the sincere dictate of our hearts, "Ride on, thou Most Mighty, conquering and to conquer!" But we have read also the declaration of an inspired servant* of the Lord : "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." And while our institution stands before you, and directs your eye to this brief† catalogue of life and annual subscribers ; and to that Treasurer's-book, exhibiting its account of no more than *eight* contributions made in Churches, during the long lapse of *forty years*, we must rejoice to think, that it has persevered, amid such paltry discouragements.

There have been dark and melancholy hours, when the

* St PAUL, in his first Epistle to Timothy, *Chap. v. v. 8.*

† The whole number of Life Members and Annual Subscribers is *a hundred and thirty-two*.

Trustees looked around in vain, for help in their extreme necessity. But as they contemplated the cloud, that concealed from them the light of heaven, they could behold, at times,

“God’s mercy, in the azure hue
Of sunny brightness bursting through.”

They were cheered by gladdening anticipations. And they had their benefactors. Yes! in their gloomiest hours, they recognised with joy some of the pure lights that God has formed, to shed their beams upon our world of wretchedness. They persevered.

They could not think, that the domestic ties of tenderness should be dissolved by sickness. With an indefatigable assiduity, they offered to the suffering poor and strangers medical attendance and advice. Where patients were unable to apply for necessary aid, they were visited at their own residences, in every quarter of the city. The Institution, during the year 1820, prescribed for no less than *seven thousand* persons. The usual list of those, who have annually received professional attendance, beside all such as have had the benefit of vaccination, has comprehended six, seven, or eight thousand. During the past year, our catalogue exceeds the number of *ten thousand patients*. Were these thousands indiscriminately left to the sad fate that might attend them, there are at least many hundreds, who would be compelled to find their only refuge in our Hospitals and Alms-house. And their deserted, miserable families must soon be driven to the same resort. It is a judicious observation of the Trustees in one* of their Reports: “*A saving of at least twenty thousand dollars is annually made to*

* See the *Annual Report of the New-York Dispensary, presented January 1829*, p. 5.

the city, by those domiciliary medical visits, and that general attendance on the sick, which is the object of this Institution."

Of its peculiar merits, our City Corporation could not long be unaware. They beheld it, every hour, extending aid to the industrious, and not only preserving unto them their families, but at the same time to the public their important labors. They beheld it anticipating diseases by precaution, and administering to multitudes, for several years successively, its numerous and valuable benefits. And they beheld all this done with so little vain obtrusiveness, that while the city had been favoured with inestimable blessings, it was unconscious of the hand that had bestowed them. Our Common Council with great liberality supplied the Institution's pressing wants; and their bounty proved both an encouragement and stimulus.

Ever since the remote epoch of the year 1790, the amiable genius of the Dispensary has been hovering over our great metropolis. On trembling wings, it has gone through every street, and lane and avenue. It has diligently sought out the poor and suffering; it has awakened tender sensibilities in their behalf; it has bound up their wounds; it has allayed their anguish; it has dried their tears; it has saved myriads* of lives from an untimely sepulchre.

But, while dispensing all these gifts, it has had no suitable apartments, to be called its home.

With mingled sentiments of joy and grief, it viewed, within the confines of a rival city, just such an edifice as it desired to rear, occupied by a similar Institution. Founded but

* During the last eight years, according to the Annual Reports, *more than sixty thousand patients*, afflicted with every variety of disease, have experienced the benefit of the Dispensary.

four years previous to our Dispensary, it very soon acquired, by its donations, and subscriptions, and bequests, a permanent productive fund, and an ample revenue. While the last twenty years have been oppressing our Trustees with every discouragement, our neighbours have been possessed of a commodious building, that is situated on an eligible spot, and has added one to the various monuments of that brotherly kindness and charity, from which our Philadelphian sister has derived her name.

But *our* sick laboring poor have had no proper edifice provided for them. During the long lapse of many years, they have resorted to an uninviting, small frame house, appropriated to the several incongruous purposes of a drug depository, a consulting room, an operation chamber, and a common hall, where every age, and rank, and sex, and color, met in indiscriminate confusion. When that friend of suffering humanity, the philanthropic HOWARD was pursuing his career, he consecrated, by his footsteps, lazarettos, prison-ships, and far less favored homes of the unfortunate. But as he traversed Europe in his generous zeal, he heaved full many a sigh, as he reflected on the importance of their amelioration. And no true friend of suffering humanity has passed that humble shed, which we have now deserted, and which has so long been designated, in large dusky capitals, **CITY DISPENSARY**; and has not himself heaved the sigh, and himself experienced the emotions of the great philanthropist.

Yet even in that humble shed, and in their darkest moments, the trustees did not despond. With beaming eye, HOPE still lifted up her finger, and pointed to the consummation, which we are convened to celebrate.

To the TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTION I would say, Welcome here! You are to-day exhilarated by the most

animating thoughts. You are convened in the very edifice, toward which your anticipations have so long been directed.

This day marks the most important epoch, in the history of the Institution, that has been committed to your care. Among your number there is one, who took an active part in its original formation. He has watched its various vicissitudes for *forty years*. He has deserved the honor, which you have conferred upon him as your **PRESIDENT**. In a happy crisis of your counsels, when the rearing of this structure, in which we are now assembled, was proposed, a large donation for this object proved that he applauded the good work. His example was soon followed, by liberal private contributions; and by the addition of a generous* grant, appropriate to the relation of our municipal fathers and to your admirable cause, the edifice has been completed.

You this day open your sanctuary, consecrated to the poor man and the stranger.

To the ATTENDING PHYSICIANS OF THE DISPENSARY
we cannot turn without deep interest.

It is your province, Gentlemen, to confer those blessings, which the Trustees design. By your fidelity, they shall continue in the public confidence.

Possessed of privileges, which are the envy of your professional companions, you may partake the benefit of all those practical *select results*, which are afforded by *ten thousand annual patients*. Every day, from the hour of nine un-

* The donation of the COMMON COUNCIL was twenty-five hundred dollars; that of Mr. WATTS was five hundred; and the private contributions amounted to three thousand. See the *Annual Report* of the Dispensary for the last year, p. 9.

til two o'clock, you may attend in the receiving rooms, and there examine and prescribe to such, as may then make application for your medical advice. In your appropriate districts, you may increase your practice to an indefinite extent. You are free to vaccinate all those, who have not previously been vaccinated; and, year after year, you may call expressly for this purpose, at each house within the district that has been assigned to you. These prerogatives, in the By-Laws of the Dispensary, are called your *duties*. But if performed in the true spirit by which you should be actuated at all times, they are your privilege. They conduct you into the best path of professional experience; they place before you, in unlimited abundance,

“——the luxury of doing good.”

You have some *trials* to encounter. Your skilful practice will be unappreciated. Yet, as your occupation may be appropriately termed, in the poetic language of the bard of Mantua,* “*artes mutæ*,” you should bear in mind, that though *least ostentatious*, it is among *the most useful* of Apollo’s arts. You may at times experience the pang, that is inflicted by base ingratitude. You may be indefatigably diligent; but you will ever be exposed to cruel charges of neglect. You share in this the common fate of the benevolent. By your undeviating devotion, let the Trustees be enabled always to rejoice, that the severest scrutiny will but proclaim your praise! It is a pleasing thought, that with a few discouragements, you have the rarest opportunities, for an enlarged charity to your fellow-men. Upon the bed of languishing, and in the moment of solicitude, *the sick are glad at your approach*. Amid your various duties, you will always read this record of your influence.

* VIRGIL, in his *Aeneid*, lib. XII. lin. 397. In this passage, the poet tells of *the memorable choice of Iapyx*, and associates the art of medicine with the most endearing sympathies of our nature.

And, as the gasping mortal is exhibited before you, and you perceive, as you have often done, that he calls

—————“not
For *Æsculapian*, but for *moral* aid,”

by a few words fitly spoken, to arrest and lead his soul to God, you may then magnify your office.* It has been said by one of old time

Ἴητρὸς γάρ ἀνὴρ πολλῶν ἀντάξιος ἀλλων.

And since the days, when HOMER first pronounced this eulogy† upon the healing art, unnumbered myriads have felt its truth, and owned when in the agonies of suffering,

“One physician is worth many other men.”

By improving to the *spiritual* as well as the *corporeal* good of the afflicted, your frequent, favorable opportunities of united medical and moral aid,—while you perpetuate, you may also sanctify this encomium of your character and office.

If you wish the countenance of your professional superiors, you need but look around you, to discover it on every side. We rejoice to be distinguished by their presence, on an occasion such as this.

To the CONSULTING PHYSICIANS OF THE DISPENSARY, and to all their PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES here, we would say, Welcome, Votaries of the healing art !

* HIPPOCRATES, in describing the *accomplished physician*, says that he is *godlike*: *ἴητρὸς γάρ φιλόσοφος, λαβθεος.* He details the characteristics, of which such should be possessed; and among these, he is careful to designate a *profound reverence for religion*. See his treatise ΠΕΡΙ ΕΥ. ΣΧΗΜΟΣΥΝΗΣ, OPERA, Tom. I. Sect. I. p. 25. l. 19. 31. 34. edit. Francof. 1595.

† HOMER ascribes these words to Idomeneus, in praise of the physician Machaon. See the *Iliad*, A'. 514.

Your science is adorned with every tribute, that can be afforded by the greatest intellectual and moral worth. It has been told of your most accomplished ancient guide and teacher, that *the course of his long life was but a single action, the relieving of the sick; and in his soul there was but one sentiment, the love of doing good.** And while pronouncing this panegyric upon him, who by pre-eminence has been entitled the *divine HIPPOCRATES*; that great reformer of your science, the renowned **GALEN**, himself emulated these inestimable virtues.

Your profession, Gentlemen, has been adorned in every age by multitudes, who have done honor to their distinguished forefathers. With **CULLEN**, they have devoted their best days to the indigent, by gratuitous services. With **FOTHERGILL**, “the half of all” their goods they have given “to the poor.” With **SYDENHAM**, they have considered their pecuniary far inferior to their moral recompense. In the noble *amor patriæ* of our **WARREN**, and our **MERCER**, they have left the field of their profession for the field of war, and been the saviours of their country. With our **RUSH**, and our **BARD**, they have associated science with the most estimable qualities of private life. And in the spirit of **CHESELDEN** and **HOFFMAN**, **HALLER**, **HARTLEY**, **STAHL** and our own lamented **RAMSAY**, they have not only

“Look'd through nature up to nature's God,”

but with the learned, the devout, immortal **BOERHAAVE**, exemplified the loveliest attributes of meek piety, and undissembled Christian faith. In these bright exemplars, it is

* Nothing but *his own habitual exercise* of the best qualities of the head and heart, could have suggested the many admirable sentiments, in regard to the intellectual, moral and religious qualifications of an accomplished physician, that are to be found in the ὈΡΚΟΣ, ΝΟΜΟΣ and ΠΕΡΙ ἘΥΣΧΗΜΟΣΥΝΗΣ of **HIPPOCRATES**, and in the other writings contained in the *first Section* of his **OPERA**, Tom. I. pp. 32. edit. *Francof.* 1595.

emphatically true,* that while “the skill of the physician” lifteth up “his head;” “in the sight of great men he shall be held in admiration.”

Successors and associates of these memorable worthies ! In commanding to *you* our Institution, which you have been pleased to honor with your presence at this time ; under a deep sense of your past bounties, the Dispensary still looks to you with confidence, for the illustration of the same attributes, in its behalf. The Trustees do not ask that *far-famed prodigality*, for which the amiable Doctor HEBERDEN was once accosted with severe reproofs, but mildly answered,† “After all my charities, I am afraid that I shall die shamefully rich;”—but they are encouraged by the animating thought, that as the honored mantle of your predecessors has been transmitted unto you, this institution has great things in store for it, to be supplied by your munificence.

To the REVEREND CLERGY of different denominations, who have now conferred on us the favor of their kind attention, we turn with great regard, and say, Welcome, Ministers of our holy faith !

Your glorious theme is in the skies ; but our world of sin, and suffering, and sorrow—yes, *the WORLD is the field*‡ of your devout beneficence. Until the heavens and the earth shall pass away, the poor afflicted sons and daughters of

* In the words of ECCLESIASTICUS, *Chap. xxxviii. v. 3.*

† Dr. RUSH relates this fact, in the conclusion of a Lecture on the *Vices and Virtues of Physicians*. He gives an honorable notice also of several eminent names mentioned above, and adds to them Botallus, Lobb, Radcliff, Friend, Russel and Tissot. See *Six Introductory Lectures* by BENJ. RUSH, M. D., Lect. V. p. 134. edit. Phila. 1801.

‡ St. MATTHEW, *Chap. xiii. v. 38.*

mortality you shall *always have with you*. This was the explicit* declaration of your heavenly master. And in relation to the children of poverty, he hath set you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Ye heralds of the Saviour's love ! Ye are the disciples of Him, whose history is comprised in that brief, eloquent, yet simple record,† "He went about doing good." With what propriety may you, in every way, be patrons of an Institution, the design of which is to heal‡ "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

To those, who give the liveliest interest to our anniversary, we turn with a peculiar satisfaction. Welcome ye, whose tender, amiable sympathies, invest you with a charm above "the sterner sex."

It is recorded in the history of ancient times, that ye were daughters of benevolence. Yet in the social circles both of Greece and Rome, with every refinement of the arts which they professed to cultivate, we see the gentler sex in a servility, by which their mental aspirations and their moral feelings were continually repressed. Throughout the regions of the Oriental continent, no other prospect is exhibited. The sentiments of the Arabians, and Persians, and Hindoos are well known. And the Chinese, with their pretensions to be the "Guides and Teachers of the Universe," indulge in prejudices, that are by no means less degrading and repugnant. The celebrated eulogy§ upon the

* St. MATTHEW, *Chap. xxvi. v. 11.* St. MARK, *Chap. xiv. v. 7.*
ST. JOHN, *Chap. xii. v. 8.*

† In the ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, *Chap. x. v. 38.*

‡ St. MATTHEW, *Chap. iv. v. 23.*

§ For the author's own words, introduced by some very appropriate observations, see the *Life of Ledyard* by JARED SPARKS, Chap. XI. pp. 264, 265. edit. Cambridge, 1828.

native qualities of woman, which was pronounced by that great traveller, our far-famed LEDYARD, is true indeed,

“ From sultry India, to the Pole.”

But to mingle in society ; to give a motive and an interest to all its varied occupations ; to tame and mollify the ruder passions of the soul ; in the expressive language of an admirable moralist,

“ To make man mild and sociable to man ;”

to be what the *Great God of Love* intended ; and in a word, to occupy the influential rank of Christian women :—this is encouraged, only by the hallowed spirit of our FAITH. It invests

“ The crowning of creation’s birth”

with its own loveliest and purest moral drapery ; and it makes woman, by the exercise of her appropriate influence, the ministering herald of its best charities to man.

To all succeeding generations, this is a suitable reward for those, who, when the Crucified had been forsaken of all others, were his inseparable friends,

“ Last at the cross, and earliest at the grave.”

O ! let your sentiments enliven, and your words direct, the tenderest sympathies of man to the relief of the unfortunate. And let us be cheered by the assurance, that around this refuge of the poor man and the stranger, your sensibilities are hovering. It will be an animating thought, that thus you may be considered as the guardian angels of the place.

With grateful feelings, we would address on this occasion the MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES of our city. Welcome ye,

who from the earliest age have been appropriately designated “the guardians of the people.”

Entrusted with the civil rights of our great commercial emporium, it is your honorable charge, to be protectors of the health and happiness of the very chief among the cities of our favored land. You are the chosen fathers of a population of *two hundred thousand freemen.*

It was the pride of ancient kings, to be accounted the preservers of the public health; and we rejoice, that you have wisely emulated their example. Your grant has given us the very soil, that now supports this edifice, in which we are assembled. In your distinguished generosity, its foundation was first laid; and, when private contributions proved inadequate for the completion of the superstructure, the topstone also was supplied, with a municipal magnanimity. To you, who are not friends and patrons of the rich only, we commend our Dispensary, which has been founded, *chiefly for the industrious poor.*

They were the wisest and most wholesome institutions* of the first VALENTINIAN, that encouraged science and the arts; trained up Roman youth with a liberal and useful education; and, to protect the *health* of all the suffering *poor*, throughout the fourteen districts of the imperial city, appointed† to these districts fourteen professors of the

* These are found in the *Codex Theodosianus*, lib. XIII. tit. III. and lib. XIV. tit. IX., as quoted in the *Ancient Universal History*, Vol. XVI. B. IV. Chap. III. p. 304., and in GIBBON's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Chap. XXV. an. 364—375.

† In this, the leading motive of Valentinian was to provide for the *poor*. Mr. GIBBON simply states, that Valentinian established “fourteen skilful physicians, with stipends and privileges, in the fourteen quarters of Rome.” But the benevolent design of the Emperor is particularly mentioned in the *Ancient Univ. Hist.*, as just cited.

healing art. All these were salutary regulations. And their goodly influence was felt, in the prevailing peace and plenty of the illustrious capital. In science and the arts, we can exult that you, our conscript fathers, have pursued the liberal policy of VALENTINIAN. And faithfully avoiding his unwarrantable, arbitrary use of private property of citizens for the completion of his laudable designs, it is to the praise of your good counsels, that without his ill-gained treasures, you have exhibited a Roman generosity !

We desire, never to forget or forfeit your distinguished favor ; but to present new considerations for its exercise, in promoting our best exertions for the welfare of that great civic family, over whose interests you are now presiding.

As we turn to this enlightened audience, whom we regard also as the representatives of our great community, we would appeal to them, to perpetuate the blessings of our Institution, to their children, and their children's children.

We hail with sentiments of joy all those, who have a sigh or tear of pity, for the corporeal sufferings of their fellow-men. Is there one here, who

"From his own, has learn'd to melt at others' woe?"

We would say to him, Forbid us not, to send our gifts of mercy to the wretched. Is there a *Christian* here? Our operations could not be more graphically pictured, than where the Son of Man describes himself, upon his throne at the great day, announcing to his faithful followers, "I was sick, and ye visited me." To the *wealthy* who may be present here, We would now say: Reflect upon the frequent, sudden, total changes in the caprice of Fortune, which you behold every day; and by contributing to the support of our invaluable Institution, think, that you may be laying up in

store a blessing for your own posterity. If it is said, that

———“numbers, once in Fortunes lap high fed,
Solicit the cold hand of Charity,”

it is emphatically true, that the descendants in the third and fourth generation of the most opulent among us, may one day command, while they participate the fruit of those testamentary largesses which we solicit. Is there one here, who has *never seriously reflected* on this subject? From this moment, you will be without excuse. And while our messengers of mercy are on their errands to the sick, you cannot, without violating your increased responsibilities, deny them a satisfactory proof of your best wishes.

Is there an individual among us, who has a heart to give at all? We would say to him, You can find no medium for your bounty, that is more truly unexceptionable. Could we depict to you the various and unnumbered operations of the Dispensary, in one great panoramic view, you would at a glance perceive, that it has saved myriads of lives, and benefited multitudes beyond enumeration. O what pain of body, and what agony of soul has it alleviated!

But we do not wish you, merely to applaud our purposes. There is a volume, which is admitted to be the best of books; yet tens of thousands turn from it to the empty fictions of a day. And while all reverence our Dispensary, they are more powerfully attracted, by some fashionable or romantic scheme of doing good. About our popular benevolent societies, there is a radiance that may be clouded, and a spell that may be broken, at one time by civil, and at another by religious discord. But there is no sectarian peculiarity, to direct or limit our operations; there are no political intrigues, with a rude hand to sever our bond of charity. It is therefore our ardent wish, that *all the philanthro-*

pic, of every religious and political denomination, would not only praise, but take a part in our unexceptionable work.

It should excite the emulation of some among our number, that while so many of our friends around us have been shedding their last smile upon every other Institution, *only two* of all who have departed hence into the world of immortality,—*only two* have remembered us upon their bed of death. And one of these,—We hesitate to speak out the humbling fact,—yes, one of these was not our fellow-citizen. His pious liberality directs our thoughts toward Newark, and calls upon us to cherish in our memories the name of HILL.* And the *Society of Friends*, at all times among the foremost in good deeds to man, contemplates, in the person of a benefactor of the human race, *one of their number*, our only other patron. But now,

“While hither oft a glance from high
He sends of tender sympathy,”

by his well-remembered, lovely traits of character, “though dead,” the benevolent JOHN MURRAY† “speaketh,” and saith in the language of his divine master and example, “*Go thou and do likewise.*”

We repeat it, as the ardent wish of our souls, that all the philanthropic of every religious and political denomination, would not only praise, but take a part in our unexceptionable work. We can suggest no higher theme; we can propose no purer occupation: for charity is the centre of

* A bequest of five hundred dollars, to be appropriated to the humane purposes of the Dispensary, was generously made in the year 1826, by PETER HILL, Esq., of Newark, New-Jersey.

† The Trustees feel a lively sense of gratitude, for the interest which JOHN MURRAY, JUN. always manifested in the success of their good work; and they record with pleasure the evidence of this, in his legacy of two hundred dollars, left to them in the year 1819.

all virtues and all blessedness, on earth and in that brighter world.

"Hope, and her sister Faith were given,
But as our guides to yonder sky ;
Soon as they reach the verge of heav'n,
Lost in the blaze of bliss, they die :
But long as Love, Almighty Love,
Shall on His throne of thrones abide,
Thou shalt, O Charity ! dwell above,
Smiling forever at his side !"

In his professional enthusiasm, an eminent physician of our land anticipated, that the time would come, when his successors might exult in the perfection of their science. "Hospitals" said he* "shall be unknown. The groans of pain, the ravings of madness, and the sighs of melancholy, shall be heard no more. The cradle and the grave shall then no longer be related." Pleasing vision ! Yet illusive as the dreams of Paracelsus, with regard to *this* world ; and to be realised *there*, and *there only*, where, in the sinless transports of the beatified, "there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." But even that enrapturing consummation shall be the fruit of never-failing charity. It is the essence of the Most Merciful himself; it is the salvation of the world; it is the employment of angels; it is the bliss of the redeemed; it is the occupation of eternity !

* These are the words of Dr. Rush, in his Lecture on the *Causes which have retarded the Progress of Medicine*. See his *Six Introductory Lectures*, Lect. VI. p. 166. edit. Phila. 1801.